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## **Senate approves Sen. Stamas' legislation to protect children from sexual predators**

**LANSING** – A bill sponsored by state Sen. Tony Stamas, R-Midland, allowing certain repeat sex offenders who target children to be sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole was passed unanimously by the Michigan Senate today.

If signed into law, Senate Bill 709, along with two companion bills, requires repeat offenders convicted of criminal sexual conduct in the first degree to serve a life sentence without a chance of parole if their victims were under the age of 13.

“I’m glad to see this important piece of legislation passed,” said Stamas, sponsor of bill. “These predators that harm children should be behind bars for good.”

Stamas’ proposal also requires all of the following circumstances be present: the offender be 17 years or older and previously convicted of a sex offense against a child under the age of 13.

The Michigan Sheriff’s Association, Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan support the legislation.

“I introduced this bill to help protect our most vulnerable residents – our children,” Stamas said. “We must do everything we can to help keep them safe. One of the best ways to do that is to make sure convicted offenders are off the streets.”

SB 709 will now go to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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